

C1  
1. (Currently Amended) A connection managing method of a digital interface for performing a connection management for a plurality of devices connected by a digital interface, the plurality devices including operation modes having a normal mode for performing a usual operation prescribed in a digital interface standard and a private mode for performing an operation which selectively controls an external device, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing the private mode as an operation mode in a first arbitrary device for a digital connection between the first arbitrary device and a second arbitrary device;

(b) the first device identifying devices having a right to access related registers to store in itself information relating to the identified devices;

(c) the first device determining whether there is a request for access to the related registers by a third-party device;

(d) determining whether the third-party device is included in the previously stored devices if there is a request;

(e) the first device accepting the request of the third-party device if the third-party device is determined to be included in the devices stored in the step (d); and

(f) the first device returning an error code to the third-party device, which indicates that the first device cannot accept the request, if the third-party device is not determined to be included in the devices stored in the step (d).

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the establishment of the operation mode is made on the basis of the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug, and in the step (a) a private mode is established in the overall device, subunit, or a specific output plug.

C/ Claims 3 and 4 (canceled).

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises:

(a-1) ~~the user~~ sending a request indicating that a bit stream output from the first device and display on a the second device intends to be managed privately to the second device; and

(a-2) the second device using a specific command to relay the request to the first device.

Claims 6-8 (canceled).

9. (Previously amended) The method of any of claims 1, 2 and 5, wherein the digital interface conforms to the IEEE 1394 standard.